



THE BONSAI NEWS

Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc. • Summer 2001

APHCV'S staff has grown with the expansion of programs, and is currently over 60! Staff members include: Front row, l-r: Yunkyung Kim, Michelle Kwong, Coleen Chung, Kultida Arakul, Dominic Koh, Khim Kha and Arnel Dino. Second row: Mika Aoki, Nancy Sunnananda, Ponnary Bun, Napalai Choto, Carol Campos, Katherine Moncure, Kazue Shibata and Kelli Nakayama. Third row: Nittaya Chamchuen, Jade Schroeder, Ketsuda Tongkul, Suthada Toppel, Nardo Beltran, Ly Ly Ung, Damaso Uy, Amy Wong, John Manalang. Fourth row: Vanthalay Van, Tessie Plata, Tess Cummings, Paweena Theinpeng, Vicky Teoco, Nongyao Varanond, Dr. Truong Do, David Sarun. Fifth Row: Velia Elias, Ana Berrocal, Bee La, Sirina Panyaratanarat, Ruth-Rawee Ornhuenjit, Nanta Yudhinant, Luy Le, Sareth Nor, Fred Alejandro, Dr. John Hoh. Sixth Row: Jay Duller, Aika Makimura, Asuka Kato, Braila Renteria, Ricardo Guzman, Ana Gomez, Victoria Yin, Jeanne Aguinaldo, Soji Kashiwagi.



Not pictured: Rossini Almario, Sol Alano, Cindy Chu, Norma Escovedo, Hariawati Hariawati, Cynthia Jimenez, Helen Lai, Andrew Ma, Jocelyn Medina, Jim Miyano, Jessica Sagucio, Soing Sokkeang, Rumpa Suwanchatchai, Lee Ventura, and Bummiend Wantha.

APHCV RECEIVES \$422,000.00 IN GRANTS TO FUND PERINATAL EXPANSION PROJECT

APHCV's Perinatal Expansion Project (PEP) is set to start operations thanks to \$422,000.00 in grants from the W.M. Keck Foundation (\$150,000), LA Care Health Plan (\$127,000), California Community Foundation (\$120,000), and Proposition 10 (\$25,000).

"We are extremely grateful to each of our funders for their generous support of our project," said Kei Kokubun, APHCV's Board President. "We would like to thank APHCV staff members Yunkyung Kim, Miika Aoki, Soji Kashiwagi and Kazue Shibata for diligently working to raise funds for the expansion. Working together, we look forward to providing this much needed service to our communities."

Funded for two years, PEP targets low-income immigrant Asian families in the Hollywood/Echo Park/Silver Lake areas of Los Angeles County with an overall goal to increase access to culturally and linguistically competent perinatal services for Asian pregnant women and families.

PEP will specifically target the two largest API groups seen at APHCV: Thais and Cambodians. The expansion will also increase access to all other five Asian languages and Spanish speaking groups.

APHCV is located only blocks from "Thai Town" and is also the only community health center in this area that provides comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate primary care to the low income and uninsured Thai community.

Similarly, APHCV is located in close proximity to a substantial Cambodian community in Echo Park. Unlike the large Cambodian community in Long Beach, Cambodians residing in Echo Park have

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

APHCV EXPANDS ITS SERVICES TO INCLUDE MENTAL HEALTH

APHCV patients suffering from mental illness will soon receive the care they need, thanks to a three-year, \$300,000 grant APHCV received from the California Endowment earlier this year.

The California Endowment is a Woodland Hills-based private foundation whose mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians.

"Mental illness is a serious problem among our patients," said Kazue Shibata, APHCV Executive Director. "We thank the California Endowment for recognizing this need statewide, and for supporting our project."

Between 1999 to 2000, APHCV providers diagnosed 170 to 200 cases of depression-related disorders. Almost 7% of the clinical encounters involved medication prescriptions for mental health related cases. An estimated 25% of patients exhibit the need for early preventive counseling to deal with issues such as anxiety and depression, domestic violence, adjustment disorders, and intergenerational conflicts. The majority of these patients are Thai and Cambodian.

The severity of mental health problems range from mild to borderline suicidal. Due to the lack of preventative and early mental health detection programs, many APIs enter the County supported mental health programs only as a last resort, when family members are no longer able to hide or deal with the problems.

APHCV's "API Health Link," project will develop an integrated

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

AGENCY NEWS

APHCV's "Fiscalizers" Win Third Annual Bowling Event

"The Fiscalizers," featuring APHCV staff member Damaso Uy and sponsored by APHCV's Fiscal Manager Nardo Beltran, were crowned the "King Pins" of APHCV's Third Annual Bowl-A-Thon 2001 held on Saturday, April 7 at the Bahama Lanes in Pasadena.

Dressed in Aloha shirts and sporting colorful plastic and shell leis, over 20 teams from the API community came together to compete for the coveted championship trophy. The Fiscalizers struck early and often and rolled their way to victory. The team from *Yolk Magazine* finished second and the Asian American

Drug Abuse Program staff team finished a close third. Asian Rehabilitation Services 301 and Drew University rounded out the top five.

Shane Sato of *Yolk Magazine* took home the individual awards, bowling an impressive high game of 244 and a high series of 590, breaking Jon Fukuda of AADAP's two-year winning streak.

Featuring Hawaiian food and 70's disco music, the day was more fun than anything else as participants ate, rocked, rolled and enjoyed an afternoon of strikes, spares and gutter balls.

APHCV would like to thank the following individuals for the sponsorships and support of this event: Bronze Sponsors: *Mise En Place* (Kiyoo Tashima) and *The Repovich*

Reynolds Group (Smooch Reynolds) Lane/Youth Sponsors: LA Care Health Plan, Sadako Kashiwagi, Hiroshi Kashiwagi, LTSC CDC, Dr. Diana Lee, Dr. John Hoh, Chinatown Service Center, Jeff Murakami/Kazue Shibata, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Lodestone Theatre Company, Korean Youth & Community Center and Koryo Health Foundation.

APHCV would also like to thank and acknowledge the generous donation of Board Member Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa, who once again provided the award for the first place finishers. Other board members who also contributed include Kei Kokubun, Miya Iwataki, Chris Leong, Bill Watanabe, Charauporn Issaranggura, Cheryl Fujino, Marlene De La Cruz and Sunetr Tokahuta.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out," said Kazue Shibata. "It was a lot of fun. I especially want to thank our Board members for their support, our staff for their donation of food and for volunteering to help at the event. Special thanks to Soji Kashiwagi, Michelle Kwong and Dominic Koh, who have put this event together for the past three years."



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: APHCV's Fiscal Manager Nardo Beltran and staff member Damaso Uy proudly stand with the Bowl-a-thon 2001 championship trophy, won this year by Nardo and Damaso's team called "The Fiscalizers."

HEALTH ALERT FOR KIDS There is a new state requirement for proof of chickenpox vaccination or immunity before children can enter school. Good news! APHCV can provide chickenpox vaccinations free for your child if he or she is under the age of 19 years. For more information, please call (323) 644-3888. —Dr. John Ho

STATE HEALTH FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND APHCV FOR RENOVATION/EQUIPMENT GRANT

APHCV will be recommended to receive a \$126,314.00 grant from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) which, if approved, will allow the agency to complete building renovations and purchase needed medical and office equipment for program expansion.

Under the Cedillo-Alarcon Community Clinic Investment Act of 2000, the bill authorizes the Authority to award grants to eligible participating primary care clinics for purposes of financing capital outlay projects.

APHCV is one of approximately 700 community clinics from throughout California that were eligible to apply.

"We are very happy to have reached this phase of the application process," said APHCV Executive Director Kazue Shibata, who worked with an architect, a space-planning consultant and APHCV'S Management Team over a two-month period to plan and prepare for this proposal.

If funded, the renovation will create needed space to accommodate new medical exam rooms for the expansion of APHCV's perinatal program, new counseling rooms and offices for the mental health program, expand its medical chart room capacity and streamline the medication dispensing activities.

Renovations also include the creation of a new front desk/check-in station and a new check-out station. The grant will also cover the cost of purchasing medical equipment, computers, printers and office furniture to accommodate the addition of new program staff.

CHFFA's staff recommendation to approve APHCV for the full amount requested will go before its Board on August 27 for final approval.

PERINATAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

few options for health and social services within their reach.

The project will address two major barriers faced by most Asian families in accessing appropriate perinatal care services:

- Lack of awareness and education among Asian families regarding the importance of perinatal care services, and what constitutes comprehensive prenatal care.
- Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive perinatal care services.

Project Objectives include 1) Providing community outreach and education to at least 2,000 API pregnant women and their families regarding the importance of comprehensive perinatal care; 2) Developing a culturally and linguistically competent perinatal program; and 3) Increasing access by approximately 130% to more new prenatal patients.

APHCV has been providing culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive perinatal services since 1997 in collaboration with Glendale Adventist Medical Center Perinatal Medical Group (PMG) residency program. Since then, PMG OB/GYN resident physicians have provided OB specialty care at APHCV four hours a week and facilitated the patient growth from 12 users in 1997 to 73 in 1999 (UDS report 1997, 1999).

However, as patient numbers continued to grow, APHCV realized the current capacity would not be able to meet the demand for services. To meet this need, APHCV raised the necessary expansion funds and will now be able to serve more Asian Pacific pregnant clients.

Architect Brian Kaneko Brings “Heart and Soul” to APHCV

By Soji Kashiwagi

Architect Brian Kaneko believes you can walk into a building and “feel it.”

“People walk in and say, ‘This is a cold building.’ They don’t know why. But they can feel it.”

Those buildings, according to Kaneko, a Los Angeles-based architect with over 30 years of experience, lack heart and soul. Without that, “they’re just occupying space, serving no purpose.”

On the other hand, you can walk into another building and feel something entirely different. “That’s when people say, ‘There’s something very nice about this building.’ Those are the buildings where people put their heart and soul into it.”

People. Heart and Soul. For Kaneko, that’s the bottom line. House and accommodate the people, and do it with heart and soul. It’s a philosophy he has made a career out of, and it’s the same philosophy he brings as APHCV’s volunteer architect for the past two years.

“Brian has been an invaluable to us these past couple years,” said Kazue Shibata, APHCV’s Executive Director. “We can’t thank him enough for his advice, guidance and commitment to APHCV.”

Whether it was drawing up preliminary space plans, producing construction documents or giving expert advice on building codes, Kaneko has played a key role in the planning for its current expansion/renovation of office space.

“I’ve enjoyed being able to help out,” said the fourth generation Rohwer, Arkansas native, who comes from a pioneer family in the Southern California Japanese American community, dating back to the mid-1800s.

“With my background in building codes, I can tell Kazue, ‘You can’t do this. You can do that.’ I want to help them so there’s not a situation where you might endanger people.”

Kaneko’s involvement with APHCV began through his work with the Little Tokyo Service Center’s Community Development Corporation, which serves as APHCV’s property manager. He was told APHCV was interested in purchasing a building, and was asked if he would tour the building to make sure it was sound investment.

It wasn’t until later that he found out that he has a more personal family connection to APHCV: His wife’s uncle is none other than APHCV Board President Kei Kokubun.

It is through Kei, said Kaneko, that he draws his inspiration to volunteer and to give something back to the community. “Kei is the one who has really inspired me,” said



APHCV’s Volunteer Architect Brian Kaneko in his Santa Monica office.

Kaneko. “He has always been really involved in the community.”

Following in Kei’s footsteps, Kaneko is also quite busy in the community. A graduate of California State University, Los Angeles who went on to run his own firm for 21 years, Kaneko is currently Vice President of Interior Design for the David J. Flood architectural firm in Santa Monica; he is also a full-time instructor at Fullerton College where he teaches architecture students five classes a semester; and he is one of three people who travel around California to give

building code seminars for architects and interior designers.

Over the course of his career, he has worked on a wide variety of projects including architectural signage, interiors, high rises, office planning for law offices, accounting offices, corporate offices and ski resorts in California, Colorado, Vermont, Montana and Utah.

Variety, for Kaneko, truly is the spice of his life. “I would not be in this business if I did the same thing everyday. Each job is different, with different kinds of people who are totally committed to the task at hand. That’s the most fun, all the planning, the process. In the end, something happens and everyone has a part in it. That’s the most exciting aspect of what we do.”

He also has extensive experience in working with medical buildings, having worked on the interiors for the Cedar Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center and completed the architectural signage for a large hospital in Japan.

“I’m familiar with how medical facilities work, with safety and health issues,” he said.

According to Kaneko, APHCV’s facility and property has great potential for expansion and growth. A subterranean parking lot with an additional building on top of it is a distinct possibility, he said. He also encouraged APHCV to develop a long-range plan, detailing out where the agency will be five, ten and 15 years from now.

“The services you are going to provide will determine the square footage you will need.”

People first, then heart and soul.

“Buildings are there to house people,” he said. “They occupy it. And if it doesn’t accommodate people it doesn’t have heart and soul. To me, that’s the driving aspect of why I enjoy doing this. It effects the way I design. I look at it from the inside out. That’s what’s really important.”

A Gift for Community Health

The Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc. respectfully requests your consideration of a gift to APHCV or your favorite charity as you receive your tax rebate this Fall.

As APHCV grows and expands, the con-

tinued support of the community is vital to the agency’s success today and in the future. We hope you will consider giving a gift to a cause that’s close to your heart, and know that it will go directly toward

helping many people in need.

All donations are considered charitable contributions and are tax deductible.

We thank you for your support and consideration.

John Marshall High School STUDENTS IN NEED RECEIVE SERVICES AT APHCV'S SCHOOL BASED CLINIC

Students at nearby John Marshall High School now have convenient access to health care services thanks to APHCV's recently opened School Based Clinic.

Funded through grants from Kaiser Permanente, the Crail Johnson Foundation and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, APHCV's clinic opened in April and is currently seeing 10 to 12 patients during a four-hour session. Due to space limitations, APHCV provides the services two days a week on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

The clinic, located in a student services bungalow on campus, currently consists of one exam room, one lab room and one counseling room. Thus far, the clinic has seen over 250 patient visits. Services provided have included a variety of things such as sports physicals, immunization and vaccine updates and care for a wide-assortment of other problems, both physical and emotional.

"We're starting to see more patients," said Dominic Koh, APHCV's Nurse Practitioner on site. "Some have eye problems and need glasses. We've also seen those in need of family planning, or they have STDs, chest pain, depression and emotional problems, physical abuse, eating disorders and drug problems," he said.

Staff at the clinic include Koh, Youth Clinic Coordinator Jeanne Aguinaldo, rotating nurses Tess Cummings, Nancy Sunannanda and Vicky Teoco, peer leaders Tasha Salcedo and Ralph Monroy, Spanish translator and HIV Counselor Ricardo Guzman and Counselor Jay Duller. Overseeing the project as part of the delivery team include Andrew Ma, Youth Center Associate Manager, Mika Aoki, Health Education Manager and Dr. John Hoh, Medical Director. All are serving a student population of over 4,000.

Of these students, many fall in one or more of the following

social characteristics: From low income and linguistically isolated families, live in high crime areas, live without parents, spend after school hours without adult supervision, are referrals from the probation office, and are sexually active.

Some are affiliated with youth gangs and are at the level of experimenting or regularly using the gateway drugs, tobacco, marijuana and alcohol. Teen pregnancies and an alarming number of

child abuse/family violence cases are also on the rise (a reported two to three cases a week).

"These students have a lot of issues we don't see at the main office," said Aguinaldo. "They've benefited from our clinic because it's a lot more accessible to them. Most don't see health care as a priority. Many are uninsured. We've helped them out a lot."

Information on the clinic has gotten out to the students through an on-campus TV show, through teacher referrals, and word of mouth among students. APHCV staff are also promoting the clinic through in-class health education presentations.

Eventually, Aguinaldo sees a need to expand the clinic space and add

more hours of service.

"If it wasn't for this clinic, these students probably wouldn't go anywhere until they get very sick," she said, adding that for early treatment and prevention, APHCV's clinic "is definitely making a difference."

APHCV's School Based Clinic is open on Monday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from Noon to 4 p.m. Services are provided without charge, but students are being advised about various health insurance carriers, and are being enrolled according to their qualifications. For more information, call Jeanne Aguinaldo at 323/644-3880, ext. 243.



APHCV'S SCHOOL-BASED CLINIC: Staff at the School-based clinic at John Marshall High School include (front row, l-r) Dominic Koh, Jeanne Aguinaldo, Nancy Sunnananda, Jay Duller and Ralph Monroy. (back row, l-r) Tasha Salcedo and Ricardo Guzman.

issues, the integration of culturally relevant services will improve both the mental and physical health outcomes of APHCV's patients.

In addition, API Health Link will see a growing number of adolescent patients who are exhibiting mental health service needs. Most of the adolescents need counseling for family and relationship problems stemming from intergenerational and intercultural issues. With the recently opened school-based clinic at John Marshall High School, APHCV anticipates an increase in the number of adolescent

mental health cases based on the school's current health and mental health data.

The project also allows APHCV's primary health care providers the flexibility to refer patients who need mental health services to the mental health department. Severe cases will be referred to the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and less severe cases, including those cases needing coping skills to reduce stress, will be referred to the bilingual case workers. They will also provide bilingual support for the LCSW.

MENTAL HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

mental health and primary health care model to provide comprehensive screening, treatment, and support services for APHCV's patients.

The program will reduce barriers to services such as language, cost, and the stigma of mental health, by providing it as part of primary medical services. Since physical health problems are often linked with mental health

ASIAN PACIFIC HEALTH CARE VENTURE 1530 Hillhurst Avenue, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90027
Telephone: (323) 644-3880 Medical Appointments: (323) 644-3888 Fax: (323) 644-3892

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APHCV has its own Web Page currently under construction. To check it out, go to our site address: <http://aphcv.apanet.org>

APHCV's REAL YOUTH CENTER LAUNCHES WEBSITE: Check out the Real Youth Center's new website at: www.realyc.com.